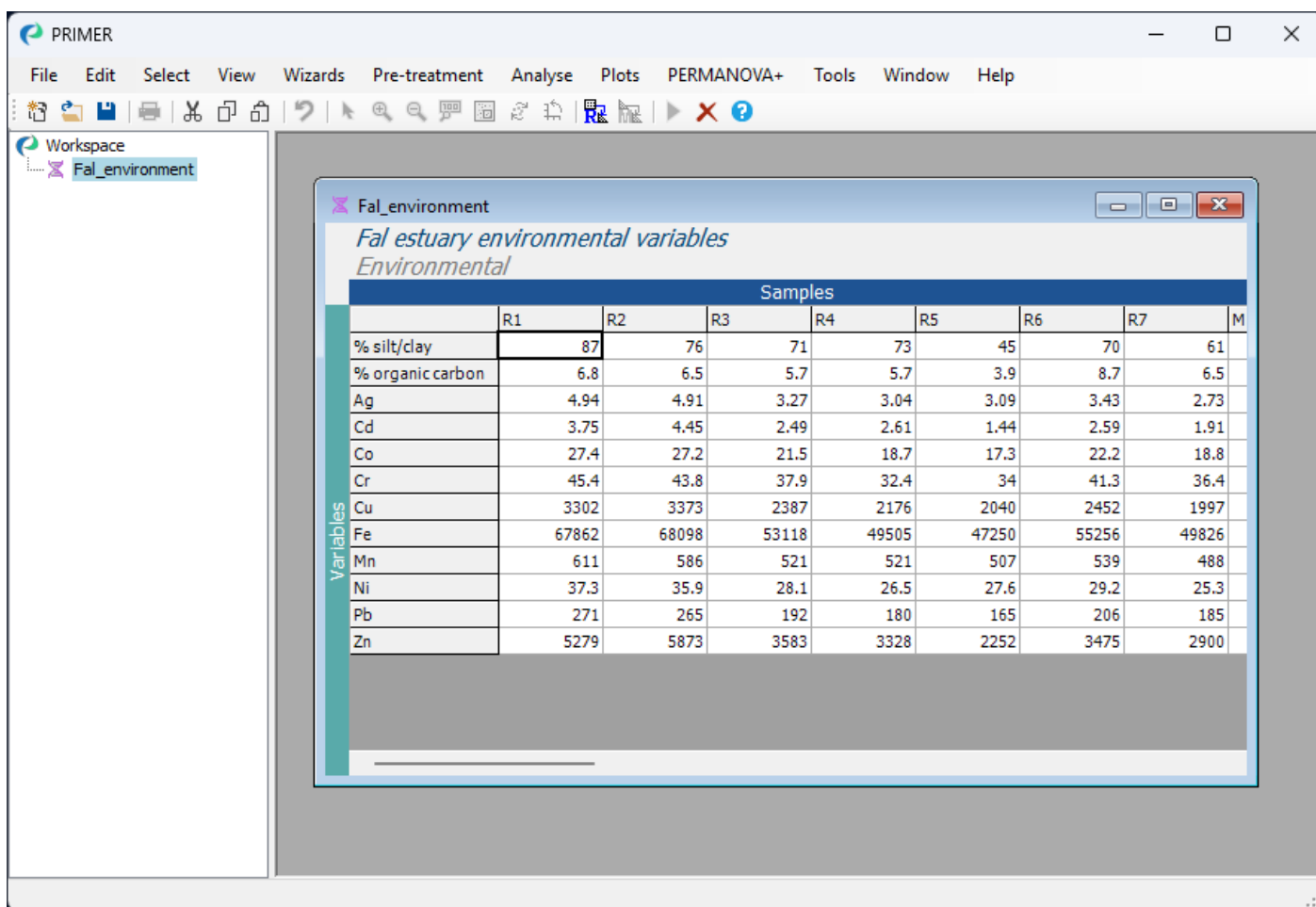


Post-import data checks

Check the orientation

After import, make sure you have specified the orientation correctly by examining the labels on the columns and rows of the data frame. For example, after importing the Fal environmental data from Excel (see the previous page), you can see that the columns are 'Samples' (a navy blue-coloured strip across the top) and rows are 'Variables' (a teal-coloured strip along the left margin).



	Samples							
	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	M
% silt/clay	87	76	71	73	45	70	61	
% organic carbon	6.8	6.5	5.7	5.7	3.9	8.7	6.5	
Ag	4.94	4.91	3.27	3.04	3.09	3.43	2.73	
Cd	3.75	4.45	2.49	2.61	1.44	2.59	1.91	
Co	27.4	27.2	21.5	18.7	17.3	22.2	18.8	
Cr	45.4	43.8	37.9	32.4	34	41.3	36.4	
Cu	3302	3373	2387	2176	2040	2452	1997	
Fe	67862	68098	53118	49505	47250	55256	49826	
Mn	611	586	521	521	507	539	488	
Ni	37.3	35.9	28.1	26.5	27.6	29.2	25.3	
Pb	271	265	192	180	165	206	185	
Zn	5279	5873	3583	3328	2252	3475	2900	

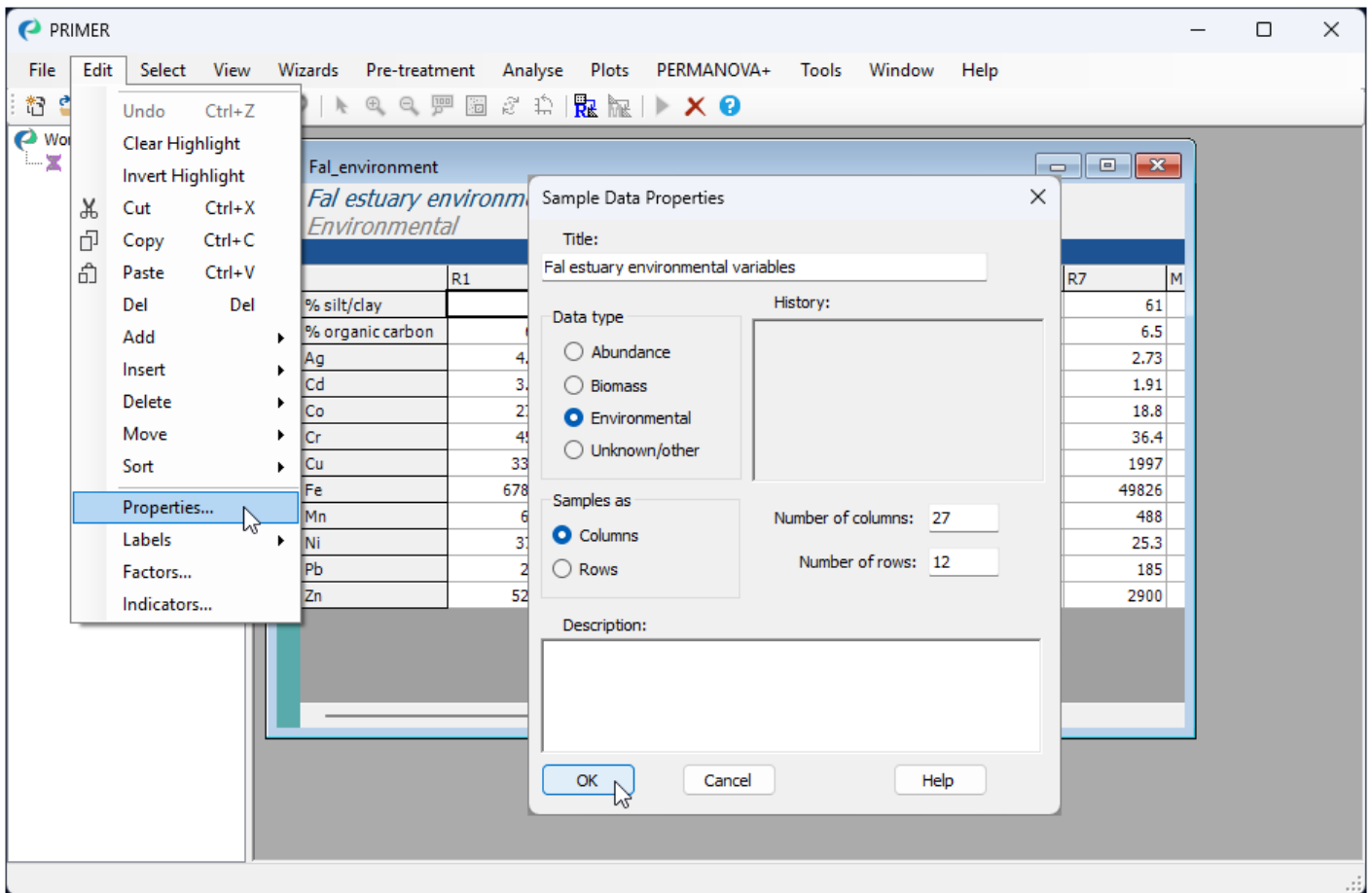
If you happen to get this the wrong way around (e.g., if your variables are actually columns instead of rows), this can easily be changed (swapped around) by choosing **Edit > Properties** and toggling the radio button for 'Samples as' to either '\$\bullet\$Columns' or '\$\bullet\$Rows', whichever is appropriate.

Check the properties, factors and indicators

To be sure that the import has been fully successful, including all data points, factors and indicators that may have been included in your original Excel file, you can see additional information attached to your data matrix by clicking on your imported dataset in PRIMER, and

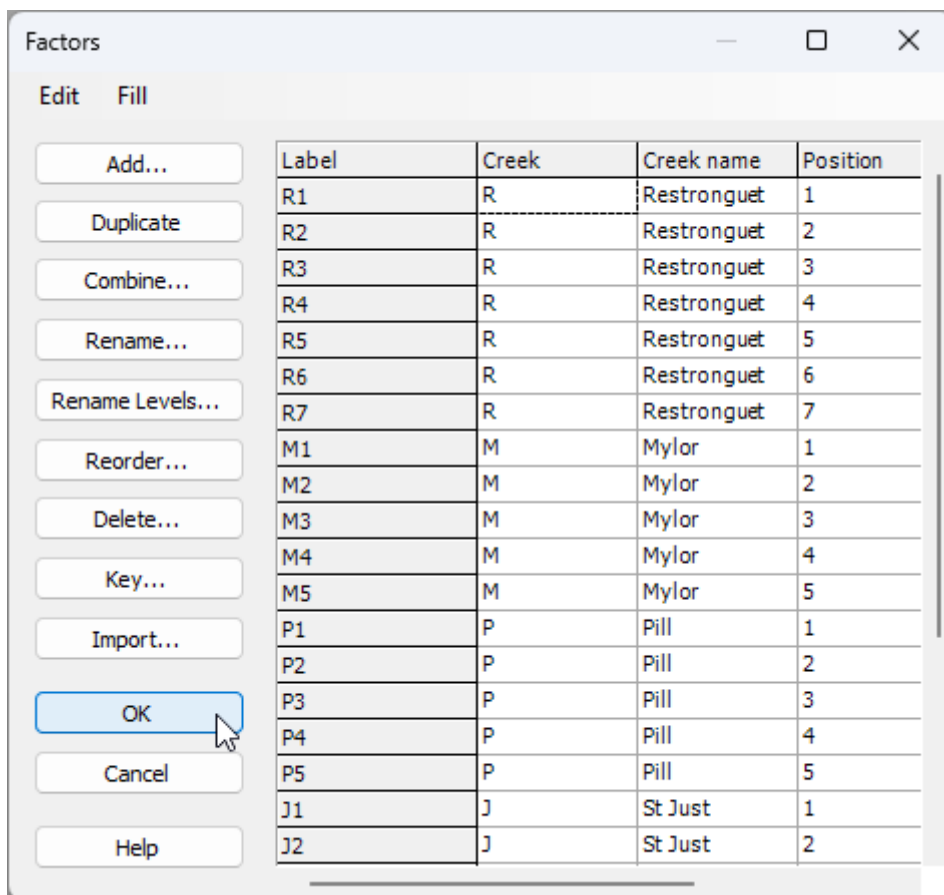
doing the following:

- Look at the data properties, size of the matrix, etc.: Click **Edit > Properties....**

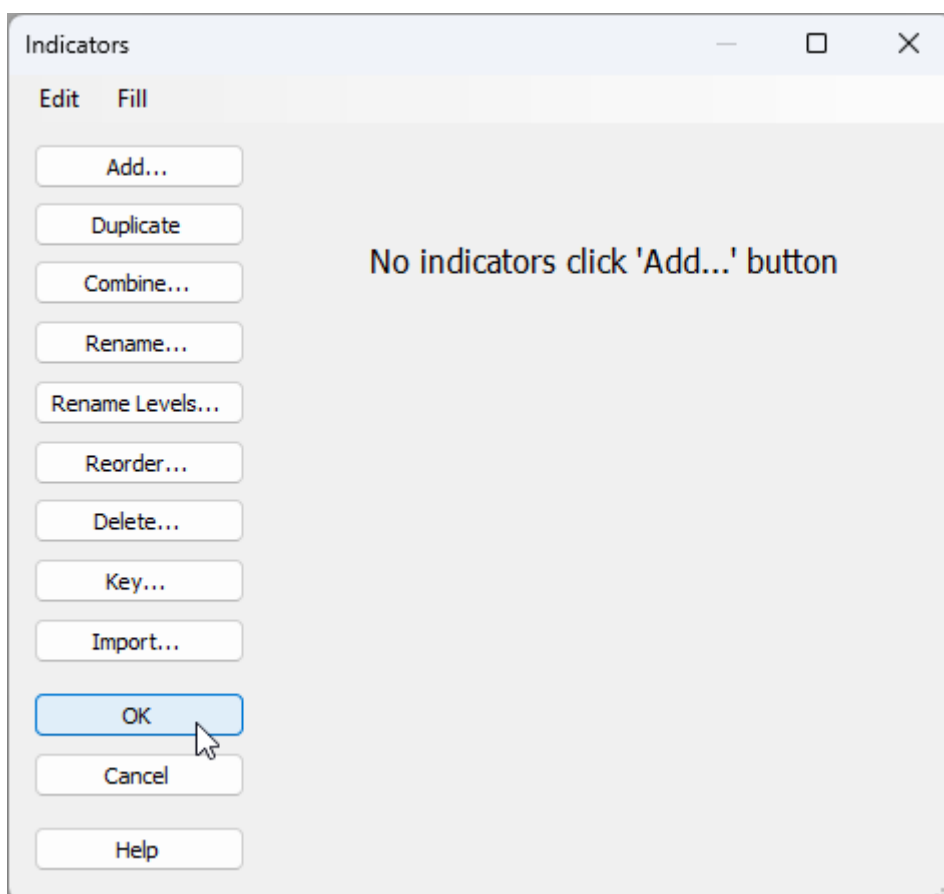


For the Fal environmental dataset, we can see there are 12 variables and 27 sites, etc. Note that you can add a useful 'Description' of your data into this dialog if you like.

- Look at the Factors (if any): Click **Edit > Factors....** For the Fal environmental dataset, you will see the same three factors of 'Creek', 'Creek name' and 'Position' that we saw in the Excel file.



- Look at the Indicators (if any): Click **Edit** > **Indicators....** For the Fal environmental dataset, there were no indicators, but you could add some here, if you wish.

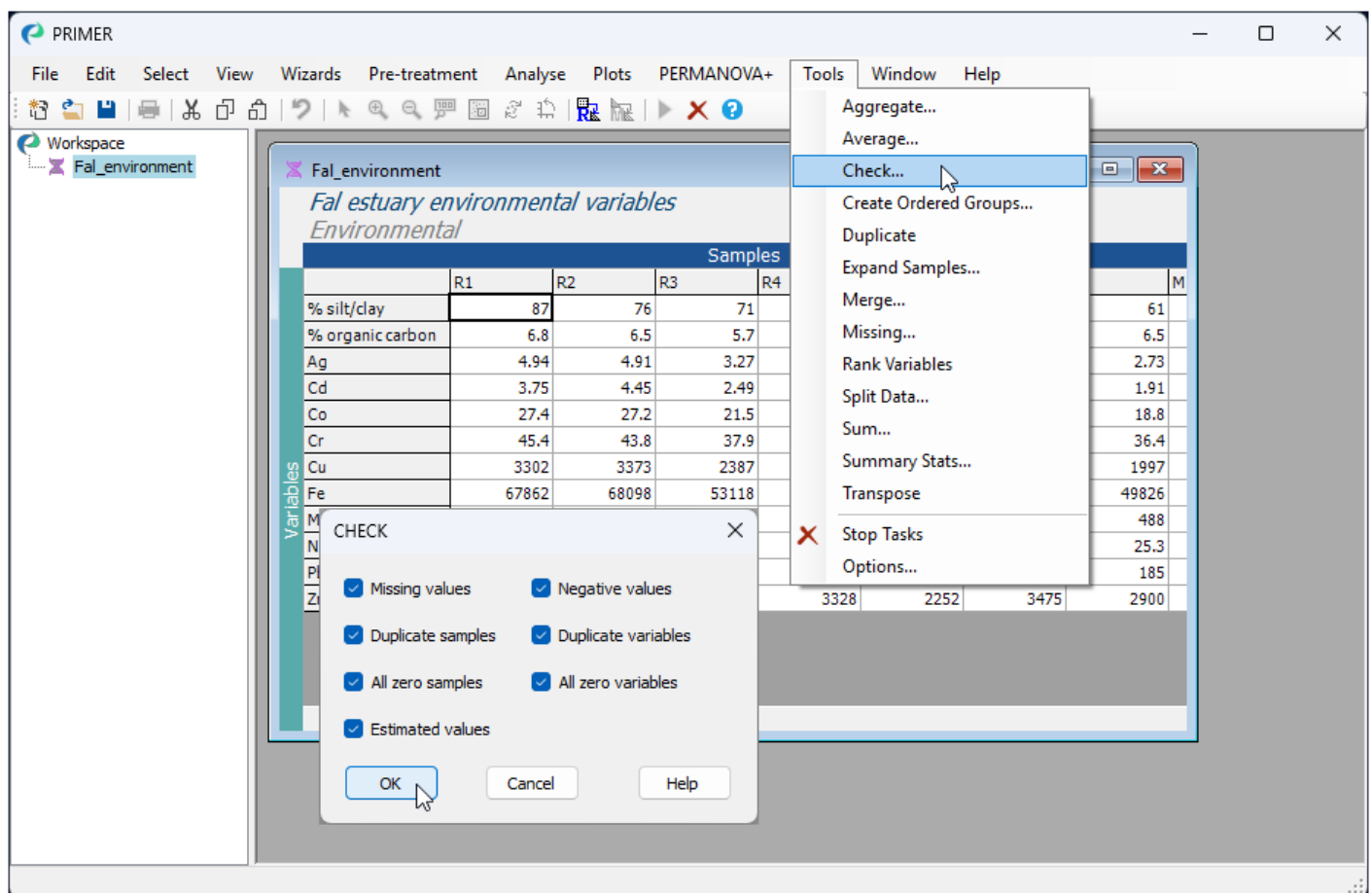


Run PRIMER's data-checking tool

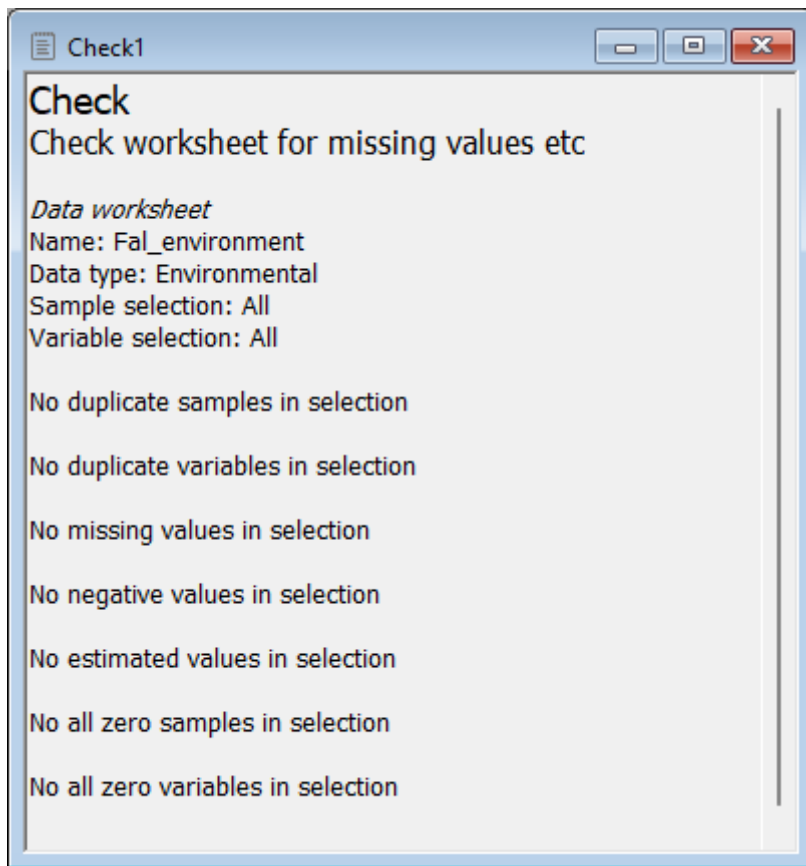
As an additional option, you can run PRIMER's internal data-checking tool to find and identify certain other features that might be present in your data, including:

- Missing values,
- Negative values,
- Duplicate samples,
- Duplicate variables,
- All-zero samples,
- All-zero variables, and/or
- Estimated values

To run this routine, start by clicking on your datasheet, then click on **Tools > Check...**:



For the Fal environmental data, none of these features occurred (see below), and we are ready to proceed with subsequent analyses.



Revision #16

Created 4 March 2025 22:01:30 by Abby Miller

Updated 16 February 2026 22:28:24 by Marti